

2:00pm - 2:40pm

Block Y, Room Y302

Presentation Title: Building Connections Between Language Needs and Subject Knowledge: A Pilot of an English in the Discipline Course in the University of Hong Kong

Presenter / Co-presenters: Dr Natalie FONG, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

This project is a pilot of an English in the Discipline (ED) course for the Information Management students in the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong. An ED course is to identify a common major course taken by the undergraduate students and to develop an adjunct English course running in parallel to their major curriculum so as to support the students to learn appropriate academic English skills for their discipline.

As a program initiative for the 4-year new curriculum, the course allows students to benefit from mastering the subject knowledge of Knowledge Management (KM) issues through a group research project and a case analysis, with timely language support from the English teacher as well as subject education from the core teacher. The progressive learning approach which is pedagogically motivated has the advantage of allowing students to target and practice their academic English at different stages within the research project. They will learn how to make meaning through co-construction of knowledge in online collaborative writing and have access to ongoing feedback from their English teacher and subject teacher at various phases.

The presentation will highlight the advantages of this adjunct course model, discuss how the course encourages commitment to students' discipline and address the challenges of curriculum planning, course implementation and assessment procedures.

Biodata

Natalie Fong is teaching at the Centre for Applied English Studies of the University of Hong Kong. Her research interest is the use of Information Communication Technologies in English language teaching and learning.